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LITERACY COMMITTEE

November 20, 2013– 8:45 a.m. –10:00 a.m.
Mercer County Community College – Trenton Campus

Present: Melinna Harris (MCCC), Gay Egan (Mercer Street Friends), Lynne Wise (Home Front), Peg Gould (MCCC), Paula Rossi (Princeton Y), Shirley Tyler (Dressed for Success), Jane Kleindienst (Lutheran Social Ministries), Sharon Nemeth (MCTS), Scott Bollwage (MCCC), Nancy Thomson (Childcare Connection)

Staff: Beverly Mills, Maribel Duarte

Guest: Maxine McCormick (McGraw Hill Education)

Review and Approval of October 16, 2013 Minutes:

Melinna Harris, Co-Chair of the WIB Literacy Committee, opened the meeting. The minutes from the October 16, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved. A motion was made by Gay Egan to approve the minutes; 2nd by Lynne Wise. The minutes will be placed on the Mercer County WIB website.

(McGraw Hill):

The presentation began with a comparison between the GED, TASC and HiSET tests by McGraw Hill representative, Maxine McCormick. Ms. McCormick reviewed the site and pointed out where sample questions and other information could be found.

It was pointed out the TASC and HiSET are based on four learning components, (1) common core standards, (2) college and career readiness, (3) Webb depth of knowledge and (4) 21st century skills. McGraw Hill, however, has added (5) evidence based reading. Evidence based reading will contain four components; alphabetics, competency, fluency and vocabulary. Other points covered in the presentation were:

- Students will have to pay to take TASC; exams can be ordered and the facility will not be invoiced until the student takes the exam and is scored;

- Options will include paper and pencil as well as computer;
- New Jersey will announce three assessments on December 4, 2013
- CTB/McGraw Hill will cost \$52.00 and will allow two free re-tests within a year (\$10.44 charged for each re-test)

Cost comparison breakdown:

	<u>CTB/McGraw Hill</u>	<u>Pearson Vue</u>	<u>ETS</u>
Price:	\$52.00	\$120.00	\$50.00
Format:	paper/pencil	100% computer	paper/pencil& computer
Access:	State decision	Pearson Vue	State decision –open
CC Standard:	100% new content aligned to common core state standards	Yes	Content from Iowa test (normed in 2011)

Comparison of McGraw Hill's Webb's Depth of Knowledge with the current GED:

Current GED	Level 1 (Recall)	recall of a fact, information or procedure
New GED	Level 2	using information or conceptual knowledge two or more steps;
	Level 3 (strategic thinking)	requires reasoning, developing a plan or sequence of steps, some complexity, more than one possible answer;
	Level 4 (extended thinking)	requires an investigation, time to think and process multiple conditions of a problem or task.

McGraw Hill will transition over a four year period and will stay with the same format. They will infuse some Level 1 and 2 the first year; the second year will add Levels 2 and 3 along with a little of Level 1; the third year they will add Levels 2 and 3 along with Level 4 and very little Level 1.

Learning activities (Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4) will be introduced gradually. In 2014 Levels 1 and 2 will stay the same, in 2015 Level 3 will be added and Level 4 in 2016.

Melinna voiced concern that the gradual transition may cause other tests to look more favorable. Students will undoubtedly ask what test they should take; do we recommend TASC because it will be easier? How will this be viewed by potential employers that the test was easier, especially if it's noted on the bottom of the diploma.

The State is asking testing centers to offer all three tests and sites don't have the money to do so. According to Larry Breeden the State will set up a database and will be the repository for scores. Melinna also mentioned that the State will ask testing centers to offer all three tests which will be a problem because of money.

By December 4th when the official announcement is made the State will most likely give incentives to centers to continue testing at a certain level. Recommendations will be made to MCCC administration whether they should commit funds necessary to do this.

Consortium Update as of November 20, 2013:

- FY 2013 = 1,108 students enrolled of 117% of the contracted goal of 949
- FY 2014 602 students are enrolled
- FY 2014 funding:

Revised NOO expected soon – the award was reduced from \$845,336 proposal request to \$794,196 (a reduction of \$51,140). Currently there is no information where the funding has gone or why. Other counties reported funding cuts also. The percentage of students served will change but this will not be a problem for Mercer.

Mercer County ABS Consortium was recognized by the MCCC Board on November 14, 2013 with the “Spirit of Education” Award from the Board of Trustees

- Professional Development
Laguardia Community College provided training to 17 representatives from 6 Consortium partners on November 8, 2013 – contextualized instruction for both ESL and ABE/GED students
- FY 2014 Plan of Work under development
 1. Alternative delivery systems (Angel at MCCC, SIOP, computer instruction)
 2. Professional development – Common Core Standards (March 2014) and Talent Networks (May 2014)
 3. Increasing learning opportunities for targeted high school graduates

Professional Development Day (Recap):

Peg Gould reported that the feedback from the day was very favorable. Laguardia is moving from contextualized instruction to integrated instruction. Student work samplers were available to look at using examples of integrated instruction. This method develops a foundation and draws on the students’ strengths and learning style. The Plan of Work will be discussed in the consortium meeting which immediately follows the literacy meeting.

Melinna informed that MCCC is struggling to keep up with demand for GED testing. There is still space for re-testing. The last day for testing will be December 18, 2013 and the College will close on December 24th.

Meeting was adjourned.

Literacy Committee Meeting: December 18, 2013 at the MCCC Trenton Campus starting 8:45 AM